

This Week in Washington

Pombo Welcomes Valley Constituents

April 23, 2003

SAN RAMON -- The paint is dry in U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo's newest office, where pictures of him bedeck the walls with smiling constituents, more of whom turned out in person for a visit Tuesday evening.

Treading the new carpet, they streamed into the Bishop Ranch headquarters by the dozen for a chance to rub elbows with the congressman.

He showed off the location during a trip to the western environs of his district. The issues here are much the same as those he is accustomed to in San Joaquin County, he said.

"It's the same thing, but a different place," said Pombo, R-Tracy, in between listening to his new voters' concerns. "Affordable housing is still an issue and we still talk about transportation difficulties. The names of the freeways and railroads have just changed."

Judy Symcox, who lives along Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton, asked Pombo to help drive a plan that would steer traffic off her street and onto a toll road. It could run directly to the Silicon Valley, she said.

Uniformed veterans from the San Ramon Valley made a showing. So did developers, water officials, planning commissioners, Contra Costa District Attorney Bob Kochly, and Chief Craig Bowen of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

"I hadn't seen the new digs. This is really nice," said Danville Mayor Mike Shimanksy, who was there to ask Pombo to push for more federal dollars for local law-enforcement.

Pombo gained Danville, San Ramon and parts of Pleasanton during redistricting last year. And he lost parts of Stockton. The boundaries now stretch the 11th Congressional District from San Joaquin County into the Tri-Valley suburbs. (cont. on page 2)

President Bush meets with small business owners to discuss his jobs and growth plan

This plan includes incentives to invest, reductions in tax burdens, and the elimination of the double taxation of dividends - will help small businesses grow and create jobs.

- As Americans file their income tax returns, the President encouraged Congress to provide the tax relief necessary to grow our economy and create jobs. The President has proposed \$726 billion in tax relief to create 510,000 new jobs this year and a total of 1.4 million new jobs by the end of next year. Congress passed a budget ensuring that \$550 billion of that amount can pass Congress with a simple majority vote using expedited procedures. The President will work with Congress to ensure that the final package is at least that size and contains all the elements of his plan -- so the economy can grow and create as many new jobs as possible. The President will not be satisfied until everyone looking for work can find it.

- The President's Plan for Jobs & Economic Growth calls for speeding up the tax relief already passed in 2001; ending the unfair double taxation of dividends; and giving small businesses new incentives to grow.

The President's proposal would provide:

- Across the board tax rate reductions that would show up in every taxpayer's paycheck soon after Congress passes his plan;
- Accelerated relief from the marriage penalty for working couples;
- An increase in the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000 per child. Families would get that extra \$400 per child for 2003 in a check mailed to them weeks after the bill is signed.
- An end to the unfair double taxation of dividends. This provision will spur investment that is vital for creating new jobs; in fact, it is estimated to (cont. on page 2)

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Seniors

"Ten million senior Americans receive some sort of dividend income. It certainly makes sense to me that if part of good policy is to encourage job creation with more capital, it's a nice dividend, so to speak, to allow our seniors to have more money, as well."

-Remarks by the President to Small Investors, February 12, 2003

May is Older Americans Month – a time to celebrate and honor older Americans for their important contributions to our Nation. The President's Jobs and Economic Growth plan reaffirms his commitment to America's seniors by allowing them to keep more of their own money to spend, save, and invest.

- Under the President's plan, 13 million elderly taxpayers would receive an average tax cut of \$1,384 this year.

- One of every two senior filers receives dividend income. As a group, seniors receive nearly half of all taxable dividends paid to shareholders.

- Elimination of the double taxation of dividends – **the centerpiece of the President's Jobs and Economic Growth plan** – would provide average tax relief of \$991 for the more than 9 million seniors who include dividend income on their tax return in 2003.

For more information on the President's initiatives, visit www.whitehouse.gov

This Week in Washington cont.

(Pombo welcomes Valley constituents cont.)

"It really hasn't changed that much. We lost parts of Stockton, but we picked up the East Bay, so the issues are not substantially different," Pombo said, pointing to a glossy district map hanging prominently on the wall.

District 11 now stretches north past Lodi and south beyond Morgan Hill.

Jessica Carter, his chief of staff, noted Pombo has three field workers in San Ramon, and people should feel welcome to stop by. "Our goal here is to make sure people know we are here and to come here," Carter said. "People may have some questions or concerns, and we want to make sure people know we are here to answer them."

If the crowded office was any sign, word seemed to have filtered in by late Tuesday afternoon.

A half-dozen members of the Blue Star Moms group showed up. They asked Pombo to support efforts to get reduced fares for active military personnel seeking leave.

Some came bearing invitations, like Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper. She invited the congressman to a "Muster Festival" she is hoping the town will host next fall, where law enforcement agencies would compete against each other in various drills.

Glenn Fuller, superintendent of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville, offered Pombo a more serene trip to the park in the Danville hills.

Reprinted from the Tri-Valley Herald

(Pres. proposal cont. from whitehouse.gov)

create nearly one-third of the new jobs that will result from the President's plan. It will especially benefit seniors who receive half of all taxable dividend income in America. Experts say it will also give the stock market a much needed boost, benefiting everyone who owns a 401(k) or other investment account.

- Incentives for small businesses to grow. Small businesses-America's engines of job creation-will greatly benefit under the President's plan, which triples the amount they can write off on the purchase of new equipment such as computers and machinery.

Under the President's proposal to speed up tax relief, 92 million taxpayers would receive, on average, a tax cut of \$1,083 in 2003. Americans in the lowest tax brackets would receive the largest percentage reduction in their tax burden.

- 46 million married couples would receive an average tax cut of \$1,716.
- 34 million families with children would receive from an average tax cut of \$1,473.
- 6 million single women with children would receive an average tax cut of \$541.
- 13 million elderly taxpayers would receive an average tax cut of \$1,384.
- 23 million small business owners would receive tax cuts averaging \$2,042.
- 3 million moderate-income families would see their tax burden eliminated entirely.

Example:

A family of four with an income of \$40,000 would see their federal income taxes fall from \$1,178 to \$45 under the President's plan.

35 million American households that currently receive dividend income would directly benefit from the President's proposal to eliminate the double taxation of dividends.

- 26 million taxpayers would receive an average tax cut of \$704 in 2003 under the dividend provision.
- 9 million seniors would receive an average tax cut of \$991 in 2003 on their dividend income.
- More than 40 percent of people who receive dividends make under \$50,000 a year - and three-fourths make less than \$100,000 a year.
- By eliminating the double taxation of dividends for 35 million stockholders, the President's plan would provide \$20 billion in tax relief this tax year alone.

IDEA

On April 30th, the House of Representatives approved in a bipartisan fashion the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act (IDEA) by a vote of 251-171. I voted in favor of this legislation which would provide unprecedented resources and reforms for America's children with special needs.

The Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act (IDEA), accomplishes the following:

- Substantially reduces the paperwork requirement of annual individualized education plans (IEPs) by giving parents the option of choosing a three-year IEP, instead of having to craft a new one every year.

- Grants school districts greater flexibility in using their funding to more accurately classify students. For example, many students with reading problems are classified as disabled and moved into IDEA classrooms, taking vital resources away from students who need the most help.

- Takes several steps to reduce litigation by establishing a one-year statute of limitations for filing complaints and stressing mediation as an alternative to litigation.

- Increases the flexibility of school districts in making decisions about discipline for individual special education students. This flexibility can enhance the educational environment for all students.

For more information visit:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c108:1::temp/~c108VZ1xQT::>